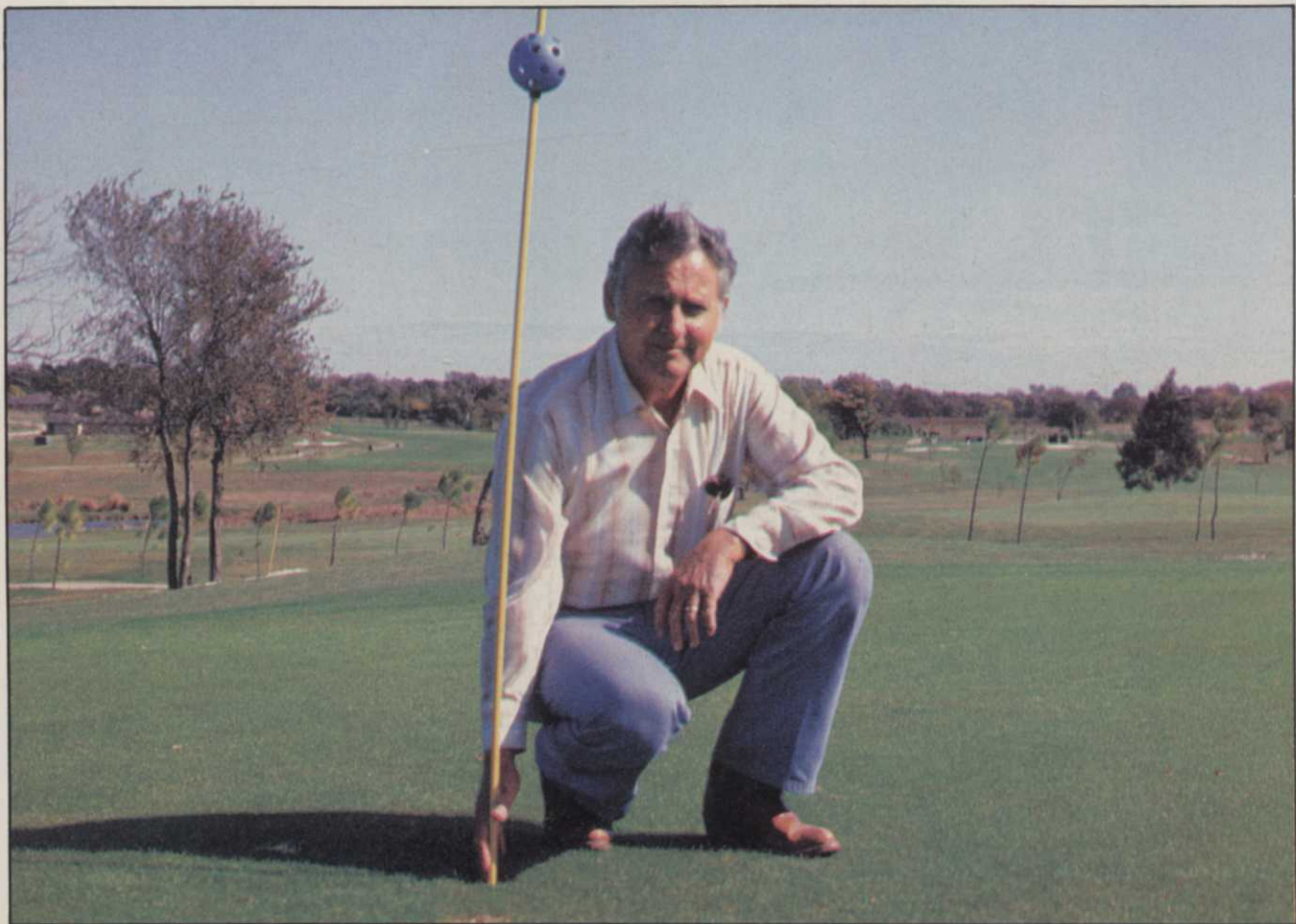


Richard Hartline's Goal  
**ANOTHER STAR  
FOR TEXAS**

By Maureen Hrehocik



Hartline kneels proudly on one of the rebuilt greens.

If Richard Hartline has his way The Shores Country Club in Rockwall, Texas, will soon be one of the leading championship courses in the state. In four years he has put the course well on its way with a series of refinements and improvements. The course has the potential, sitting on the shores of Lake Ray Hubbard in the center of a \$200,000 and up housing development. As he states, "There is plenty of room near the clubhouse to accommodate a gallery for championship matches."

When Hartline became superintendent of the course, located 30 miles east of Dallas, he immediately

reworked and reshaped the greens. He solved, for the most part, a severe drainage problem. He planted over 5,000 trees and installed a \$100,000 cement cart path. It was all accomplished in about a year, and, Hartline says, he hasn't finished yet.

The 18-hole semi-private course was designed by Ralph Plummer. Hartline says one of the major selling points of the housing complex is the golf course.

Future improvements include diverting some of the water from the lake to make water traps. Hartline still has a drainage problem to contend with on some of the

fairways. Nine more tees will be leveled and senior citizen tees will be added. Plans are in the works to build 23 more traps and plant 10,000 more trees—all within the next two years.

"I'm particularly proud of the back nine holes," Hartline says. "They have the best view of the lake."

With more than 267 acres of turfgrass in recreation alone (including the tennis court area) and 14,255 rounds played on the course up to October of last year, Hartline's maintenance schedule is fine-tuned. He and his crew of

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The complex of \$200,000 homes abuts one edge of the course. A few of 5,000 trees planted by Hartline's crew are in the background.

eight (12 from March to November) fertilize greens and tees four to five times a year. Constant repair is needed on the turf near the cart path because of careless drivers. Weeds in the Bermudagrass greens are kept under control with Koban, usually applied five times a year.

Fairways are overseeded with common rye, tees with "Futura"

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The golf course is a major selling point of the housing complex adjacent to the The Shores.

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and greens with "Futura" Plus. Hartline's winter overseeding includes cutting and thinning out the greens using "Futura" and a mixture of sand and compost. Turf on the greens is 328 Tifgreen with common Bermudagrass used on the fairways, roughs and tees.

Fairways and greens are usually aerified twice a year, greens three times a year. Compost is used as the topdressing for tees and greens. Fairways, greens and tees are irrigated automatically with a Buckner system. Turbin pumps have a 1,200 gallon-a-minute capacity.

Reclaimed water from the city of Rockwall is collected in a man-made lake to provide the water source. Five roughs have quick-coupler sprinkling systems.

Hartline's affinity for his work started as a boy growing up on a Texas farm. "I've always loved farmwork," he says. He got started in his profession when his family leased a farm next to the McKinney Country Club in Texas. Gradually, he started helping out, caddying and mowing the greens, even though at the time, it was hard for him to see over the top of the mower. Eventually, he began working full-time at McKinney.

Hartline became a Class A member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 1960. He had been a superintendent five years prior to that. Since then, he's worked at a number of courses in Dallas, Brookhaven Country Club in Carrollton, TX, Eastern Hills Country Club in Garland, TX, Calabasas Country Club in Calabasas, CA, and began at The Shores in 1978. Besides the GCSAA, he is a member of the Texas Turfgrass Association.

"There's no limit to what you can do to beautify a golf course," Hartline says. "I'd like to make ev-

ery hole a conversation piece as well as a challenge to play."

Hartline knows what he has to do to make The Shores the kind of course he'd like it to be. But the biggest challenge that faces him is the one that faces every other golf course superintendent—the weather.

"My maintenance program is always geared around fighting Mother Nature."

Another challenge Hartline finds is the fact that golfers as a whole are getting better and expect better-maintained courses. "We're seeing more and more golfers who

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"I'd like to make every hole a conversation piece as well as a challenge to play."

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expect courses to be in tip-top shape every time they play. Not getting the grass mowed because of the weather is no excuse."

With the ideas and improvements for the course Hartline has in mind, as well as the maintenance schedule he already implements, The Shores will have no trouble meeting the demands of golfers across the country. **WTT**